After a Series of Killings

HAIDAS THREATENED WAR

The articles in this continuing series are taken from the Files of The British Colonist, founded in Victoria more than a century ago by the fiery Amor de Cosmos. Originally the seat of colonial government, Victoria experienced growing pains from time to time, and there were excitement and adventure aplenty on this fringe of wilderness.

WHEN BIG BILL LAIRD was working in the fields of the old Finlayson farm one morning in late March, there was the swish of a musket ball close to his head and the almost simultaneous blast of a firearm. The shot came from the direction of the Haidas' lodges—or the Hyders, as they were known to the early settlers.

Laird was, by all accounts, a far from timid man. He dropped his axe and strode across the clearing, marched into the Indian encampment and demanded to see the chief.

But instead of the chief, a young and excited buck approached him with a pistol in his hand, and holding its barrel close to the settler's head, ordered him out of the encampment. Laird did not argue; but he took his case to the Victoria police.

From that time, armed whites kept a close eye on the Indians. For this was no isolated instance of assault and intimidation.

It happened at a time when the Haidas and the Flatheads were at each other's throats, with some of the Cowichans getting into the affair on the side of the Flatheads. But just why anyone, Haidas or otherwise, should have shot at Laird was never explained. It was probably some hothead with a grudge against the whites.

At that time the Flatheads occupied a number of lodges just across the inner harbor, beyond the old Johnson Street bridge and along the road to Esquimalt. It was they who started the trouble with the Haidas, although the cause of animosity again is lost. Possibly it was a long-standing affair growing out of raids by the fierce northern bands. In any event, Geesh, one of the great chiefs from the Queen Charlottes, was shot down in cold blood one Friday morning while he was cutting wood on the Finlayson farm.

Next day the Haidas did to death a Songish woman.

King Freezy of the Songish swore venegeance.

On Sunday an old and much respected Songish, a devout Christian, left an early mass for the Haidas' lodges where his daughter was wedded to a northern sub-chief. He intended, he told the priest, to try to avert further bloodshed by appealing for a peace council.

He walked unmolsted among the Haidas until he came to the chief's lodge which he was invited to enter. But no sooner was he inside than half a dozen knives were raised against him. He died almost instantly. The body was mutilated and thrown into the harbor, and the tide took it to the beach by the Songish encampment.

All that night Indians prowled the woods, stalking their enemies' camps and lodges, and there was the noise of gunfire throughout the dark hours. What casualties there were the authorities never did discover.

Then on Monday a Cowichan woman was kidnapped on the streets of Victoria, carried into the Haida "village" and there mutilated and eventually slain while hundreds watched.

The Haidas sent word to their northern home that reinforcements were needed and they planned to attack in force and exterminate the Songish and their Cowichan allies.

The Cowichans got their hands on another Haida a day or so later and cut him to pieces.

Then came the shot at Laird and a quick move by Victoria police to patrol the Indian areas. The appearance of armed whites had the effect of quieting the tribes, and nothing came of the threatened "invasion" from the Queen Charlottes. But for years there was tension whenever Haidas found themselves in proximity with Songish or Cowichans, and away from Victoria there were killings and raids that often went unpunished.

Victorians were getting a trifle out of patience with the thousands of Indians camped around their borders and the time was rapidly approaching when they woud take energetic steps to remove them.

Indians who had come originally to trade or perhaps only out of curiosity, remained to drink the poisonous concoctions sold by the whisky peddlers. And it was that trade, as much as anything, that caused so much of the trouble among the tribes. So, although the whites had cause for concern, if not alarm, they had only themselves to blame for failing to prevent delivery of doctored liquor to the lodges.

For Susan Hayward

OSCAR in the OFFING

By SHEILAH GRAHAM

SUSAN HAYARD speaking: "I will make no more than four more pictures. Then I will retire to be with my husband and family all the time, in our home in Carrollton, Georgia."

I looked surprised, so Susan added: "It isn't hard to refuse pictures — the great roles do not come along too often."

Miss Hayward, currently starring at 20th Century-Fox in the movie version of "Snow Birch," "Woman Obsessed," is 99 per cent sure to win the Oscar for the best performance by an actress for her fine work as condemned murderess Barbara Graham in "I Want to Live." But, being a trifle wary, she would now discuss this with me. Said she: "We'll cross that bridge when we come to it."

Susan has crossed many bridges since I first saw her at Paramount for the remake of "Beau Geste" with Gary Cooper. "I had the feminine lead, but you didn't see much of me," she recalled. "I was visible at the beginning; then the boys went off to the Foreign Legion."

She was one of the dozens of hopeful young actresses brought here by David Selznick to test for Scarlett O'Hara in "Gone With the Wind." She was thankful when, after losing out with Selznick, Paramount signed her for seven years. "But I was pushed around so much and resented it, I spoke up and got a bad reputation for being a fresh kid. I'd pray that my option would not be picked up, but for some reason I don't understand, it always was."

The film, "Adam Had Four Sons," with Ingrid Bergman and Warner Baxter, was the turning point in Susan's Hollywood acting life. "But it was Walter Wanger who made me a star. He put me under personal contract. He was the first Hollywood producer to treat my desires and wants seriously, and I'll always be grateful." If Susan wins the Oscar for "I Want to Live," Wanger will be grateful. It's his picture.

"How about your marriage?" I asked the once tempestuous redhead, who nowadays exudes calmness. "I'm very happy. My husband (Eaton Chalkley) and I have a fine life together. He's a lawyer and has business in Los Angeles so, when I come here for a picture, he comes with me. We've been married two years and have rarely been separated.

"We've been building a house at the foot of a river; we have a lake, a pool, a guest house, and fishing. My twin sons, 14, go to Georgia Military Academy—it's only 45 minutes from where we live. And when we are home, which is most of the time, they come home for weekends. They love it there and so do I. They are not identical twins. One's a redhead and one's a blond. They have different friends. Both get A's and B's, but one specializes in mathematics. My husband's mother lives in town near us, also a brother and sister. When I'm there, I have so much to do—we've been building since our marriage. But I also have more leisure time to read."

When the movie star first arrived in town, there were many requests for her to appear at this and that function. "But I explained my position. I'd never have time for living there if I did everything I was asked to do. I do all the movie-star functions in Hollywood." But she has been active in the local Heart Fund drive.

"As soon as this picture is finished, we're off for home. We stay at a hotel and I have no desire to return ~~to live here. Last year I~~ made two movies together—'I Want to Live' and 'Thunder in the Sun.' But from now on I'll make one picture a year at the most, until my contract at 20th is finished, in four years, and that will be that. The career doesn't interest me very much, and more and more I ask myself why do I make any pictures at all?"

Her present movie, which may be re-titled "Storm"—Susan's own suggestion—is less stormy than some of her previous roles. The theme of capital punishment pervades her Barbara Graham role. And when an English reporter recently asked Susan how she felt on the subject, she replied, "I'm against capital punishment since I made the picture. Before, I never thought about it."

"I Want to Live" has been banned in Britain—they find the suspense of the gas chamber at the end too realistic. Susan shares in the profits of the film—to the tune of 37½ per cent. Her performance recently won the New York Critics Circle Award, as the best by an actress in 1958.

SUSAN HAYWARD . . . four more years.

And the cheers will be even louder for her acting, but also for a girl who was down and out emotionally to the point where she preferred to die, but who picked herself up and went on to achieve peace and a new, happy life.

THIS WEEK'S ANAGRAM

How is your vocabulary? There is no better or more fascinating way to improve it than by solving these anagrams each week. Add the letters in the first column to the letters in the second column, and rearrange the letters so as to form a new word. EXAMPLE: FEND plus SEE equals? Answer: DEFENSE. Can you solve the following anagrams?

(1)	CORN	PLUS	OAT	EQUALS	???
(2)	DROP	"	NET	"	"
(3)	TRIM	"	AGE	"	"
(4)	ECRU	"	PIE	"	"
(5)	GRIT	"	SAC	"	"

Solution to today's ANAGRAM on Page 10.